THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism has requested for restoration of LTC facility in the interest of encouraging growth of domestic tourism in the country.

Report of Indian Association of Tour Operators

3022. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Wiil the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleaded to state:

(a) whether Indian Association of Tour Operators has submitted a report on low tourist inflow; and

(b) if so, the details of their views and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Department of Tourism keeps a continuous interaction with various Indian Tourism Industry Associations including Indian Association of Tour Operators for strengthening *inter alia* the marketing efforts to promote India as an attractive tourist destination in the major tourist generating markets. To attract more foreign tourists the Government has taken numerous steps such as promotion of tourist charters, organising familiarisation tours for Tour Operators/Travel Agents/members of print and electronic media, enhanced use of information technology, participation at the inportant Tourism, organising exhibitions like WTM, ITB etc.

Special Economic Packages for Tourist Industry in Jammu and Kashmir

3023. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tourism is the only key industry in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether terrorism has completely destroyed tourism in Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) whether Government will extend special economic package for re-building tourist industry in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Tourism is one of the Key industries of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) Eruption of militancy in the State has adversely affected tourist traffic to Kashmir Valley.

(c) and (d) Development of tourism infrastructure is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides some financial assistance for tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them every year. Fortynhree projects with Central component of Rs. 1212.56 lakhs have been sanctioned in Jammu & Kashmir during the 1st four years of the Ninth Plan.

Stay of ITDC Officials in Ashoka and Kanishka Hotels

† 3024. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and posts of those three officers of Indian Tourism Development Corporation who are encamping with their families in Ashoka and Kanishka Hotels;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite getting promotion and allotment of Government accommodation these officers are encamping in the said hotels, as a result thereof corporation is incurring loss of lakhs of rupees each month;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government against them despite the instructions of Corporation with regard to vacating the hotel; and

(d) by when, they would be asked to vacate the hotel?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) 3 Senior officials were occupying

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.